

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 16, 2003. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application and respectfully request favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that Claims 3-4, 6-7, 11-12, 14-15, 18-22, and 24-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to expedite issuance of this Application. Pursuant to the Examiner's instructions, Applicants have rewritten Claims 3, 6-7, 11, 14-15, 18-21, and 24-25 in independent form by incorporating the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claims 3, 6-7, 11, 14-15, 18-21, and 24-25.

The remaining pending claims are dependent Claims 2, 4-5, 8, 10, 12-13, 16, 22-23, and 26, which depend from one of the allowable independent Claims 3, 11, and 21. Because these dependent claims incorporate the limitation of their respective base claims, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of dependent Claims 2, 4-5, 8, 10, 12-13, 16, 22-23, and 26.

Rejected Claims

In the Office Action mailed July 16, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5, 9-10, 13, 17, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,512,762 ("Renucci") in view of U.S. Patent 6,466,651 ("Dailey") and rejected Claims 8, 16, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Renucci* in view *Dailey* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,327,364 ("Shaffer"). Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have cancelled independent Claims 1, 9, and 17, without prejudice or disclaimer, to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuation application. Furthermore, Applicants have amended dependent Claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 23, and 26, to depend from one of the allowable independent Claims 3, 11, and 21.

Conclusion

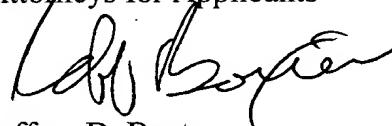
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffery D. Baxter, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6791.

Applicants attach a check for \$387.00 to cover the cost of filing nine (9) additional independent claims. Applicants believe that no other fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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